

REMARKS

The Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 27, 2003. Claims 12 and 15 were objected to. Claims 1-21 were rejected. The claims and specification have been amended to address the concerns raised by the Examiner.

Claims 1-21 were originally presented. Claims 4 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 6, 7-12, 15-19, and 21 have been amended. New claims 22-26 have been added. The new claims include subject matter that was originally claimed, but in different combinations, along with some subject matter that was originally disclosed, but not claimed. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

The claims were objected to because of two informalities. As directed by the examiner, claim 12 has been amended to correct dependency, and claim 15 has been amended to change “an” to --a--. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that these objections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 15-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Applicant has amended the claims to address each rejection presented by the Examiner. Specifically, claim 15 has been amended to refer to “a connection point.” Claim 16 has been amended to refer to “a length.” Claim 21 has been amended to refer to “the helix.” Other amendments have also been made to avoid possible indefiniteness or antecedent basis issues. The Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments place the claims in proper form for allowance under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-16, and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McConnel et al. The Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 7, and 15 without adding new matter to clarify that the dielectric rod is substantially solid, and that the base plate is “operatively interconnected” to the shielding of the input line. The specification has also been amended without adding new matter to clearly explain the function of the base plate and its interaction with the matching network.

The Applicant respectfully submits that McConnel does not disclose a solid dielectric rod, and does not disclose a base plate that is connected to shielding of a transmission line. Claims 1 and 15 have been further amended to specify that the helix is a single unidirectional helix. McConnel does not disclose such structure. Accordingly, the cited reference does not teach or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims as amended. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 7, and 15 are allowable over the cited art, and the other pending claims are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 1-5 and 7-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sydor. The arguments presented above with respect to McConnel are fully applicable to this rejection. Specifically Sydor does not disclose a solid dielectric rod as claimed, and does not disclose a base plate that is connected to shielding of a transmission line. Accordingly, the cited reference does not teach or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims as amended. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 7, and 15 are allowable, and the other pending claims are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McConnel/Sydor in view of Openlander. The above arguments with respect to McConnel and Sydor are fully applicable to this rejection. Neither McConnel nor Sydor teach or suggest a solid dielectric rod, or a base plate that is connected to shielding of a transmission line. Openlander does not cure this deficiency. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent

claim 1 is allowable, claim 6 is therefore allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

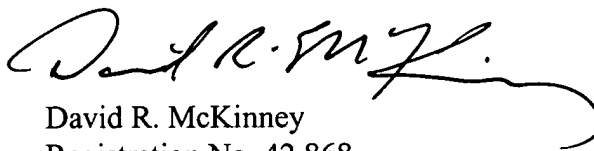
In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-3, 5-12, and 14-26 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed and passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to call David R. McKinney at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Check No. 17212, in the amount of \$27.00, is enclosed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 to cover the fee for three additional dependent claims above twenty total claims. Five (5) dependent claims were added (claims 22-26), while two (2) claims were canceled (claims 4; 13).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

DATED this 25th day of June, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. McKinney
Registration No. 42,868

THORPE, NORTH & WESTERN, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 1219
Sandy, Utah 84091-1219
Telephone: (801) 566-6633